

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

WILSON, Heather (Republican)
Representative, 1st District, New Mexico
Elected 23Jun98 to 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Keene, New Hampshire - 30 December 1960

Home: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Marital Status: Married (Jay Hone) - 3 children

Religion: Methodist

Education: AF Academy, BS, '82; Oxford Univ, MA, '84, PhD, '85 (Rhodes Scholar)

Military: US Air Force, 1978-89

Profession: Public Official; business consultant

Political: Won 23Jun98 special election defeating NM State Sen Maloof (D) with 45% of the vote to succeed five-term Rep Schiff (R) who died 25Mar98. Served in Bush Administration as National Security Council aide; appointed in 1995 NM Cabinet Secretary of Children, Youth and Family Department. Reelected in 2000 with 47% of the vote and in 2002 with 55%.

A former director for European Defense Policy and Arms Control on the National Security Council staff during the Bush Administration, Rep Wilson is considered moderately conservative. Considered strong defender of Kirtland AFB and Sandia Nat'l Lab. Opposes reductions in military spending and efforts to use American forces in many overseas missions.

In the 106th Congress, during debate on H.Con.Res. 42, the war powers resolution on commitment on ground troops to Kosovo, cited her experience and knowledge of NATO and European security policy, having served as a member of the US Mission to NATO and as a director on the National Security Council staff. In connection with the DoD Appns bill, described many of the readiness shortfalls being experienced by the military, particularly from her experience as an Air Force veteran. Noted that the Air Force has shrunk from 36 fighter wings to 20 since 1990 at the same time it has sustained a fourfold increase in its commitments. Remarked that the Air Force missed this year's recruiting goal by 7 percent and is short 800 pilots. Spoke with young families at Kirtland AFB about separations and deployments. Believed important questions needed to be addressed before ground forces were committed to Kosovo. Suggested we may be dealing with the consequences of US actions in the Balkans for the next decade at least. Proposed that Kirtland AFB be the center for all directed energy weapons technology. On October 3, 2000, was appointed to the HASC to fill the vacancy created by the death of Rep Herbert Bateman (R-VA).

In the 107th Congress, cosponsored HR 4714, prohibiting the involuntary wearing of the abaya garment. Sent a letter to President Bush urging him to come to Congress to discuss the issue of "concurrent receipt." Does not believe vets should have their retirement "docked" to cover their disability pay. Worked to keep Kirtland and other mil facilities off any BRAC lists.

Additional: First AF Academy Graduate elected to Congress. Member of Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Service (DACOWITS), 1991-3. Only female veteran in Congress. First Republican woman to represent NM in House. Was 1994 finalist for Superintendent of Schools in Albuquerque. Bronze Medallist in 1990 American Rowing Championships. Member, Air Force Caucus.

AF Bases: Kirtland AFB; Reserve Forces

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES - Subcs on Readiness; Strategic Forces

ENERGY AND COMMERCE

USAF ACADEMY BOARD OF VISITORS, 2001-present